

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY SPEAKS IN FAVOR OF IMPROVEMENTS AT STEWART AIRPORT

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives in favor of measures he placed in the bill that would promote improvements at Stewart International Airport. Speaking during debate over the Fiscal Year 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill, Hinchey praised the bill's provisions that would appropriate \$5.7 million for the construction of a new air traffic control tower, direct the Federal Aviation Administration to study ways in which Stewart can help alleviate congestion at New York's metropolitan airports, and fund a study of transportation links between Stewart and New York City.

"I am pleased that my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee were willing to provide recognition and assistance for Stewart Airport," said Hinchey. "A new air traffic control tower is long overdue and will make the airport safer. Additional investments at Stewart can make it a more viable alternative to LaGuardia and reduce congestion there. All of this will make Stewart more attractive to major air carriers."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey added an amendment to the Transportation Appropriations bill that inserts a provision that reads in part, "The Committee...directs the Federal Aviation Administration to report on how Stewart International Airport can be better utilized to serve the region's growing air traffic needs." To date, the FAA has ignored Stewart as it studies ways of reducing the severe congestion at LaGuardia Airport.

Hinchey also requested the \$5.7 million that is included in the bill for construction of a new air traffic control tower. The bill also contains a measure providing \$350,000 to the Federal Highway Administration's budget for a study of transportation links between Stewart and New York City.

The Transportation Appropriations bill is one of 13 spending bills Congress must pass each year. Each bill determines a portion of federal discretionary spending. The transportation bill is expected to be passed by the full House of Representatives Tuesday evening.

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